



**GRADE**

**8**

# Your Child's Progress

Learning goals for the 2009-10 school year

## Grade Level Expectations: **Grade 8**

Your eighth-grade student has specific learning goals in every subject. Grade Level Expectations, or GLEs, define the knowledge and skills that students should gain from kindergarten through the 10th grade. Each teacher is responsible not only for the GLEs in the grade they are currently teaching, but also for those in previous grades. Below are examples of key learning goals for eighth grade. To learn more about Grade Level Expectations, go to: <http://www.k12.wa.us/standards>.

### Washington State Learning Goals

The four state learning goals below provided the foundation for the development of the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs), which help measure progress and accountability:

#### WRITING



- Writes for a variety of audiences and purposes, including persuading and explaining
- Analyzes ideas, selects a manageable topic and elaborates using specific, relevant details and/or examples
- Knows and applies spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and paragraphing appropriate to the grade level

#### READING



- Integrates a variety of comprehension and vocabulary strategies, and adapts reading to different types of text
- Summarizes information from multiple sources to deepen understanding of the content in oral and written responses
- Continues to read for pleasure as understanding of author's craft deepens

#### MATH



- Solves a variety of linear equations and inequalities
- Works with lines and angles, especially when solving problems involving triangles
- Creates and compares displays (ie., shapes or graphs) for two sets of data in order to draw conclusions
- Refines reasoning and problem-solving skills

#### SCIENCE



- Begins to use concrete evidence to develop a new level of understanding about matter, energy and systems
- Begins to develop models to describe complex systems and learn how investigation can provide evidence to test models
- Begins to differentiate between questions that can be scientifically investigated and those that cannot

**1.** Read with comprehension, write with skill and communicate effectively and responsibly in a variety of ways and settings

**2.** Know and apply core concepts and principles of math, science, the arts, social studies, health and fitness

**3.** Think analytically, logically and creatively, and integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems

**4.** Understand the importance of work and how performance, effort and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities



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# State Testing in Washington: Grades 3-8

Beginning in spring 2010, most students in grades 3-8 will take the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP), which replaces the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). About one percent of students participate in the Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS), an equally challenging program for some students in special education.

The MSP name conveys the goal of the test: to *measure student progress*. State testing should never be the sole judge of a student's academic skills and knowledge. A student's entire performance should always be considered. If you have questions about your child's learning, please contact your child's teacher or school.

Please visit [www.WAtesting.com](http://www.WAtesting.com) to learn more about state testing.

## State Testing Changes

The MSP is the new state test for students in grades 3-8. How does it differ from the WASL?

**Shorter:** Reading, math and science can be given in one day as opposed to two. Writing will remain at two days for now.

**Online:** During the next few years, students in most grades will take state tests via computer.

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### State Testing and Reporting Timeline

**May 12- May 28:** MSP paper/pencil testing window for grades 3-8\*

**May 3- June 4:** MSP online testing window for grades 6-8

**By end of Sept.:** All MSP reports sent home

\* Testing is 1 day for reading, math and science

### What Does a MSP Score Mean?

Students receive a score for each MSP test taken. Scores are based on how an individual student performed, so you won't find percentiles often provided by other standardized tests. Scores fall into one of four levels:

**Level 4 Exceeds State Standards:** Represents advanced mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject.

**Level 3 Meets State Standards:** Represents mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject. Student can apply knowledge and skills to real-world situations.

**Level 2 Below State Standard:** Represents some mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject.

**Level 1 Well-Below State Standard:** Represents little to no mastery of skills and knowledge in a subject.

## The Move to Online Testing

Washington is not the first state to make the move to online testing, but it is among the leaders. The state's goal is for the majority of grades and subjects to be tested via computers in all school districts by 2012.

In spring 2010, the MSP will be offered online in grades 6-8. About 25 percent of students in those grades will test via computer next year. In spring 2011, fifth graders will test on computers in reading, math and science.

In spring 2012, fourth graders will move online in reading and math. Feasibility studies are being conducted for online testing in all third-grade subjects.

### Who Gets Tested and When?

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires yearly testing of students in grades 3-8 and 10 in reading and math, and in three grades in science (grades 5, 8 and 10 in Washington). Our state also tests students in writing (grades 4, 7 and 10).

Grade	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Reading	✓	✓	✓●	✓■	✓■	✓■	9th grade testing is no longer available due to budget cuts.	✓●	Necessary only if student has not met state assessment graduation requirement.	
Math	✓	✓	✓●	✓■	✓■	✓■		✓●		
Writing		✓			✓			✓●		
Science			✓●			✓		✓		

- Offered online in spring 2010
- Offered online in spring 2011



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### For more information

OSPI: [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)

MSP/HSPE: [www.WAtesting.com](http://www.WAtesting.com)

Questions: [StateTesting@k12.wa.us](mailto:StateTesting@k12.wa.us)